



THE DEARBORN EXPRESS

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AL HIPPENSTEEL, EDITOR
JANICE KOERBER, ASST. EDITOR

Dearbornexpress.net



Grateful

Three years ago, I was grateful for health care workers. Still am. Two years ago, I was grateful for the vaccine. Last year, I was grateful to live in this city, voted number 1 over all other big cities in the United States by Conde Nast Traveler Magazine Annual Readers Choice Award.

This year, I'm grateful for those volunteers who meet and attend to the immediate needs of Asylum seekers who have just got off the bus. Volunteers like **Laarni Livings** who organized the Newcomers Assistance Network to meet the needs of the migrants at District 01 Police Station. Clothed them, fed them, took them to a place for showers, took them to laundromats. And they did this for months.

I'm also grateful for the Sandy Hook Foundation whose efforts to educate and tenaciously push for the prevention of gun violence. And Illinois's new assault weapon ban shows us that progress can be made. See page 18.

I am grateful for those who contribute content to the Dearborn Express. **Beth Finke, Bonnie McGrath, Lorraine Schmall, Mike Knezovich, Marianne Goss, Regan Burke and Brian Hieggelke**, editor of New City; Blockclub Chicago, and The Columbia College Chronicle. And to the property managers who distribute the Express to the residents of their buildings. And last but not least, to **Janice Koeber, Assistant Editor.**



DECEMBER 20, 2023

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JAZZ SHOWCASE

Wed, Dec 20, 8pm & 10pm.....Chicago Soul Jazz Collective
featuring Dee Alexander

Thu-Sat, Dec 21-23, 8pm & 10pm.....Trumpeter Corey Wilkes
Quartet

Sun, Dec 24, 4pm & 8pm.....Trumpeter Corey Wilkes
Quartet

Wed-Sat, Dec 27-30, 8pm & 10pm.....Marquis Hill

Sun, Dec 31, 8pm & 11pm.....Marquis Hill

Mon, Jan 1, 8pm & 10pm.....Marquis Hill

Thu-Sun, Jan 4-7, 8pm.....Jazzwords

Wed, Jan 10, 5pm.....Jazz Links Jam Session



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Jazzshowcase.com



Corey Wilkes Dec 21-Dec 24



Marquis Hill Dec 27—Jan 1

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South Loop Neighbors is a non-profit membership based organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in South Loop's neighborhoods and preserving the area's landmark districts.

South Loop Neighbors represents South Loop residents who are concerned about:

- Ensuring high-quality, reasonably-sized real estate development as well as infrastructure improvements that respect the unique character of our community
- Preserving and protecting the area's Landmark Districts, including Printing House Row and Historic Michigan Boulevard
- Promoting quality education, recreation, services, retail, community activities, and events
- Maintaining a socially, culturally, and economically diverse neighborhood
- Developing strong relationships with key city officials to ensure they respect, hear, and act on the concerns and ideas of the South Loop community. South Loop Neighbors serves members and residents within the area bounded by Congress Parkway to approximately 25th Street and from the

Chicago River to Lake Michigan. www.southloopneighbors.org

South Loop Neighbors

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Best Deal in the South Loop

The South Loop Neighbors has two forms of memberships. One is a full, dues paying membership and the other is a free affiliate membership.

A full, dues paying membership provides a number of benefits but also help SLN pay for operational costs, such as room rentals for our meetings. In addition to receiving the monthly digital SLN newsletter, full members also can attend our annual members dinner for free (see above), get discounted member rates throughout the year on SLN events that have a cost and get first access to limited events. Membership dues start at \$35 for an individual and \$20 for a senior.

An affiliate membership, which is free, provides for the monthly digital SLN newsletter.

To sign up for full SLN membership, [click here!](#)



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OPINION

The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the editor or South Loop Referral Group.

Backstory Essays Regan Burke Forsaken Christmas

December 14, 2023



The first movie I saw on Christmas Day was *To Kill A Mockingbird* in 1962. Since I suffered from an endless holiday hangover, little of the story stuck in my saturated brain. As a high school freshman, when I was still afraid to fail, I'd read and reported on *To Kill A Mockingbird*. Until *Mockingbird*, I hadn't seen a movie created from a book I'd read. Fortunately, the film is still so popular it's come and gone enough times on TV for me to watch it again. And again.

A Christmas Day movie-going tradition began, sometimes with friends, sometimes alone. At first December 25th movie releases offered an escape from uncomfortable family time. Before I got sober in 1976, mandatory holiday gatherings handed out one big gift-wrapped box of shame. Movie people count on family escapees, I suppose. Some of the best movies have been released on Christmas Day: *The Sting*, *Catch Me If You Can*, *Broadcast News*, *Sherlock Holmes*, and *Tombstone*.

Every Sunday when my son was a toddler, he'd nap as his father studied, and I'd go to the movies. When he was old enough, we went to the movies together, especially on Christmas Day after the divorces, when it was just the two of us. When he was seventeen, he convinced me to see Talking Heads' 1984 concert film, "Stop Making Sense."

"I don't like punk rock," I said.

"It's not punk. It's different. You'll like it," he convinced me.

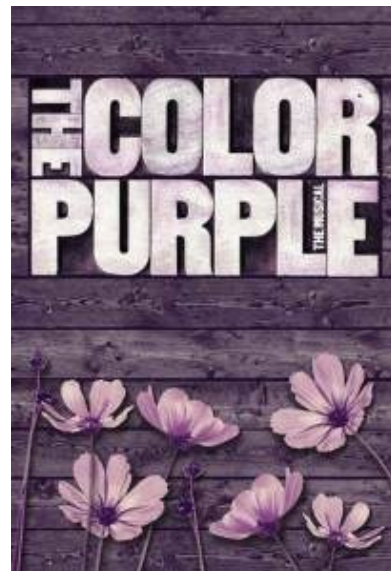
He had his own band at the time and knew his music, so I trusted him. He was right. I blasted the "Stop Making Sense" cassette on my car radio until the tape wore thin.

When movie buddy [Marca Bristo](#) was alive and in town, we couldn't wait to get to the first showing of the Christmas Day releases before she returned home to her family dinner. We'd usually discuss the movie over after-theater coffee, but on Christmas Day, coffee shops closed, so we'd sit in the quiet theater afterward, mulling the pros and cons. Marca died in September 2019. The Christmas releases that year included *Little Women, 1917*, and *It's a Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*. I chose *Just Mercy*, which tells the true story of defense attorney Bryan

Stevenson and his client, a black man falsely accused of murder. A powerful advocate for people with disabilities, Marca would have chosen the same.

Movie theaters closed for a while at the beginning of the Covid pandemic in 2020. I'm so wary of catching Covid and all manner of infectious diseases that I've not been in a movie theater since Christmas 2019. It's tempting to see the re-make of *The Color Purple*, which will open this year on December 25. But every time I'm in a coffee shop or at a public event and someone sneezes or blows their nose, low-level panic attacks. Reclining in a multi-plex next to strangers for two or three hours' worth of entertainment is out of the question.

I'll wait for Netflix.



[COMMENT](#)

by Regan Burke [In That Number: One March From the Streets of Protest to the Halls of Power \(And Beyond\)](#)

Available at Sandmeyer's Book Store and other places.



OPINION

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Sincerely, Marianne Reconsidering masks

By **Marianne Goss**

Here and there I see someone wearing a mask, but for the most part, it seems that the end of the pandemic and the end of mask wearing coincided. An Axios/Ipsos American Health Index in August found that only 15 percent of Americans wear a mask at least sometimes, a decline from 23 percent in May and 30 percent in February.

I was glad to give up masks. They're uncomfortable and make it harder to hear and to breathe. The loops occasionally knocked off my hearing aids. Masks block my vision when I'm looking down, which is scary on uneven sidewalks and steps.

Since my recent bout with COVID, however, I've been thinking about whether to mask in some situations. Here's a sampling of medical advice.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Where COVID-19 hospital admission levels are high, wear a mask in public indoor settings. When admission levels are medium, older people and those who have underlying conditions should discuss with their doctors whether to mask.

World Health Organization: Wear a mask in a crowded, enclosed, or poorly ventilated area. Wear a mask in a public space if you are at high risk of becoming seriously ill with COVID. In other situations, consider the local infection rate and vaccination level.

Cook County Department of Public Health: Masking continues to be recommended for anyone at high risk of complications from COVID or in the presence of someone at high risk.

Dr. William Schaffner, an infectious disease specialist at the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, interviewed by the *New York Times*: Wear a mask whenever you are in a confined, crowded indoor space (can include stores, offices, and public transportation), particularly if you are 65 or older, have an underlying condition that makes you more vulnerable to severe disease, or are pregnant.

Following the CDC's advice, Chicagoans wouldn't bother with masks. Hospital admission levels are low here. Following the two physicians' advice, we (especially seniors) would wear a mask indoors much of the time.

I've decided that it would be prudent to carry a mask to put on in indoor settings where I'm sitting close to strangers — such as on the CTA or at the theater. I'm not going to have a hard-and-fast rule but just make sure a mask is available.

Masking in high-risk environments doesn't guarantee that we won't get COVID. But it should help: A CDC study during the pandemic found that surgical masks reduce the risk of infection by 66 percent, and the higher-quality N95 and KN95 masks by 83 percent.

I dislike masks, but I disliked COVID more.



COMMENT

South Looper Marianne Goss blogs at
<https://sincerelymarianne.blogspot.com/>

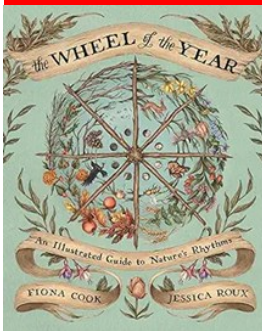
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Browsing Sandmeyers for the Holidays

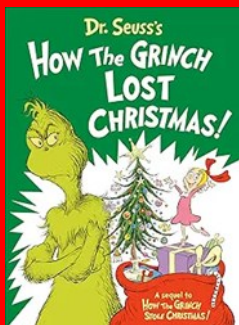


The Wheel of the Year: An Illustrated Guide to Nature's Rhythms by Fiona Cook (Author), Jessica Roux (Illustrator)

A beautifully illustrated, interactive guide to ancient, nature-based holidays and customs. Through themed meditations, crafts, and rituals, young readers can learn about old and new ways of honoring the seasons—and create their

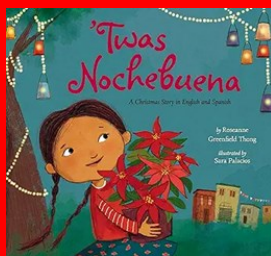
By Dr Suess

The Grinch is BACK and ready to prove to the residents of Who-ville that he's changed. This heartwarming sequel is written and illustrated in the style of Dr. Seuss's beloved holiday classic *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*



By Roseanne Greenfield Thong

'Twas Nochebuena and all through our casa, every creature was kneading tamale masa...



It's Christmas Eve, and you're invited to a Nochebuena celebration! Follow a family as they prepare to host a night filled with laughter, love, and Latino tradition. Make tasty tamales and hang colorful adornos (decorations) on the walls.

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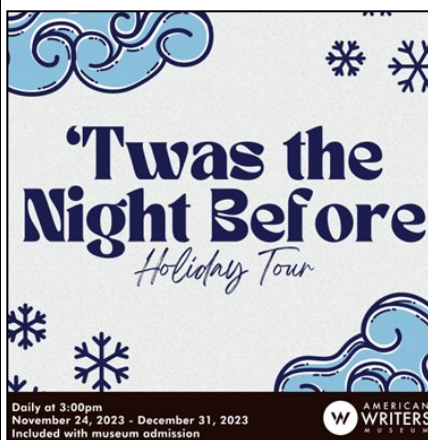
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'Twas the night before the holidays,
when all through the museum,
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of hair clips and reindeer...
 Step into a world of holiday magic during the American Writers Museum's new tour, **'Twas the Night Before: A Holiday Tour.** Immerse yourself in the timeless tales and cherished traditions

that have shaped our holiday celebrations through the power of words. Offered daily at 3:00 pm.

This 15-minute tour introduces you to all areas of the AWM, and following the tour you can explore all of our exhibits at your own pace. 'Twas the Night Before: A Holiday Tour is offered **daily at 3:00 pm** when the **AWM is open (Thurs-Mon, closed Tues and Wed)**. The tour is included with admission and no advanced registration is required. Tours begin at the front desk.



American Writers Museum
 180 N. Michigan Ave, 2nd Floor
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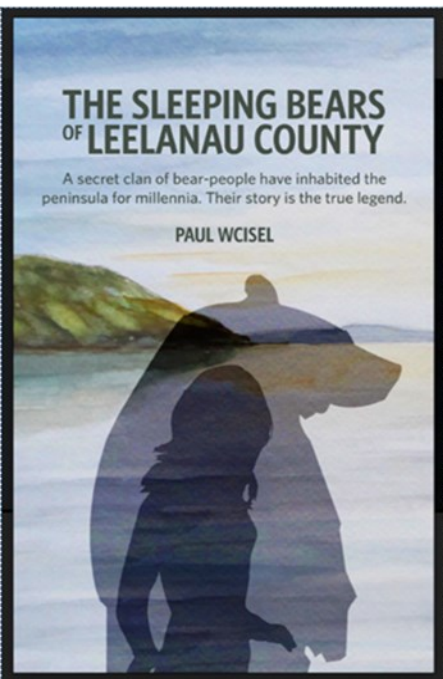
<https://americanwritersmuseum.org/>

A new novel by
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 Paul Wcisel
 (paulwcisel.com)

In a remote corner of northern Michigan, the residents of Leelanau County have a secret society that has been living on the peninsula for thousands of years. They are the bear-transforming descendants of tribes who crossed Lake Michigan millennia ago to escape the destruction of their clan.

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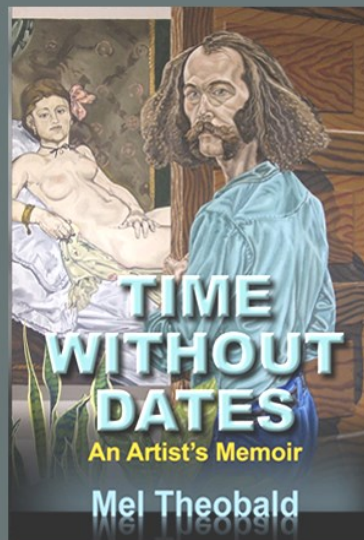
Pick up a copy at Sandmeyer's Bookstore today.



Time Without Dates

An Artist's Memoir

by Mel Theobald



In this candid memoir, the author pays tribute to the mentors and events that inspired him and lays bare the experiences that shaped him as an artist. The Art Institute of Chicago plays a central role in the years he spent as a student, museum conservator, and alumni leader. His struggles with his parents' archaic ideals and his dreams give rise to a thoroughly engaging association with an elite art community.

He became a university professor and graphic designer before receiving an invitation to Russia in 1990. This book is a prelude to *Inside the Enigma*, an intricate account of that transformative year, and defines the complexity of his foray into the inner workings of an art museum, university and the people who represent the heart and soul of his creativity. Art, science and religion are the cornerstones of his belief that creativity, technology and faith in nature will lead man to a higher consciousness.

For more details about the author,
 go to: www.theobaldart.com

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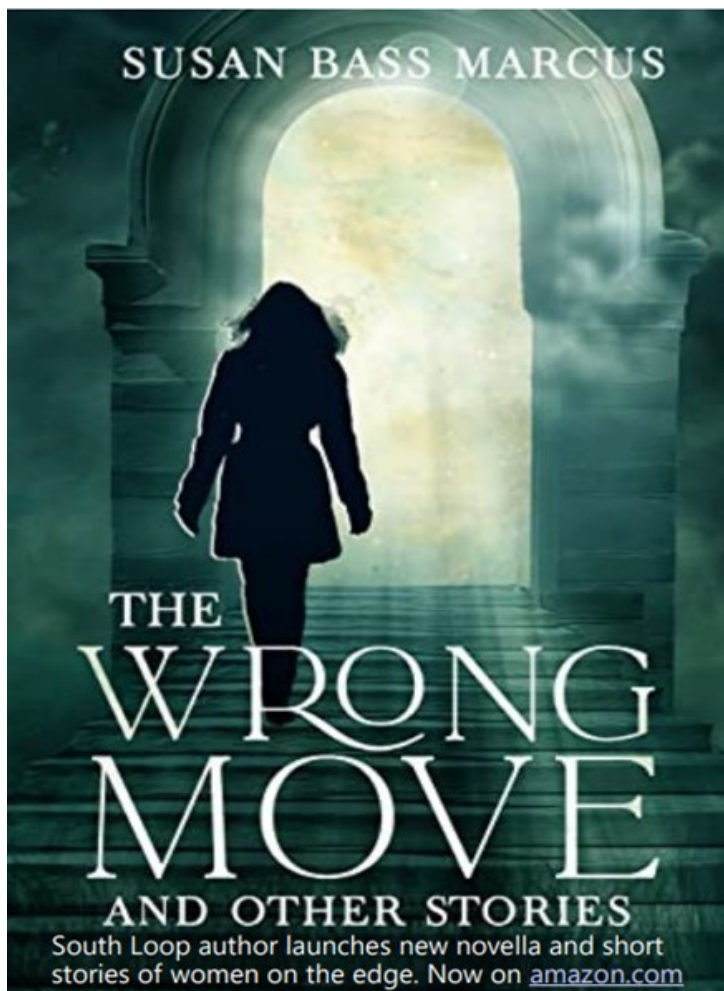
Claire. Keegan, *So Late in the Day* (Grove)

Short stories are special. Edgar Allen Poe, who scared us as freshmen and terrified us as seniors and stops our hearts still as full-grown adults, is credited as the inventor of the genre. Bounded by their brevity and their scarcely and perfectly chosen words, we are lured into the writer's world and not released until she or he decides to let us go. Claire Keegan, whose latest book, **So Late in the Day**, takes less than a late morning to read, offers more than a surfeit to think about. Poe said: "During the hour of perusal, the soul of the reader is at the writer's control," and verily, Irishwoman Keegan commands not just our souls but our brains and our bodies. Reading the three stories in this new book takes considerably less time than getting over the effects of her perfect words: letting go of our anxiety about how it all will end; taming our tachycardia; or suppressing our overwhelming desire to turn down our lips and burst into tears. It's a small book with a small price and a gorgeous linocut on the cover by Paula Pohli that is both inviting and distressing. But it is heavy, and profound, and brilliant—and full of "this could, might, did, happen to me." Critics claim Keegan deals with historic Irish misogyny, but it seems more like some universal kind of misanthropy, or, as one reviewer notes, the disappointment and surprise of "thwarted expectations." Keegan trusts us to reach our own conclusions about whom to blame, but she sets us up to anticipate, as China Achebe taught us, that **Things Fall Apart**. The first story is about Cathal, a civil servant, not unlike Bill Nighy's hidebound character in **Living**. This is the longest of the three stories, and begins with

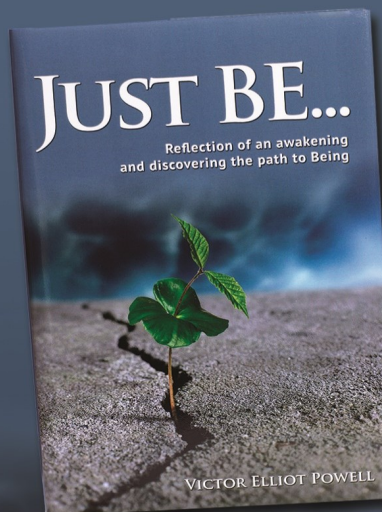
writer-as-augur: "Down on the lawns, some people were out sunbathing and there were children, and beds plump with flowers; so much of life carrying smoothly on, despite the tangle of human upsets and the knowledge of how everything must end." Oh, dear. The second story makes us hope for, or fear, "The Long and Painful Death," as the story is named. On her 39th birthday, a woman begins a coveted arts residency in the seaside cottage of Heinrich Boll, a German Nobel Laureate who deeded his property to people like "her," who "felt hungry to read and to work," to "sit for days, reading and working, seeing no one," when the house phone rang. And there begins another end. So, too, with the final piece, "Antartica" that commences with: "Every time the happily married woman went away, she wondered how it would feel to sleep with another man." She, and we, find out. At this time of year, when lines are long and time is short, take an hour and treat yourself to this pithy and passionate prose. It will keep your mind off your self-seeking, overcome your self-pity, and set you to wondering if any of those "others" you read about are in the line ahead of you.

Lorraine Schmall

Dearborn Park / December, 2023



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Safe & Sound Blog by Beth Finke



A Tribute to Hanna Bratman

December 2, 2023

Earlier this week I got word that Hannelore (Hanna) Bratman, a writer in the memoir-writing class I used to lead at the Chicago Cultural Center, had died Monday, just short of her 104th birthday.

Hannelore had age-related macular degeneration and found out about my “Me, Myself and I” writing class decades ago from volunteers who read mail out loud to her every week at Blind Service Association (now referred to as Blind Service Chicago).

“They are the ones who told me about this blind lady who teaches a writing class,” Hanna told me years later. “I just had to come and find out how she does it.”

We were so fortunate to have Hannelore in that class –her essays taught us so much. She had grown up in a German industrial city called Mannheim, her family was Jewish and owned a substantial home and butcher shop there, her father died when she was a child, and her mother went on to single-handedly raise her daughter Hannelore and run the family butcher shop. To give you an example of the sorts of things we learned from Hanna’s stories, I’m sharing an essay she wrote about what life was like for a young Jewish student in 1933 Nazi Germany

What’s In My Head by Hanna Bratman

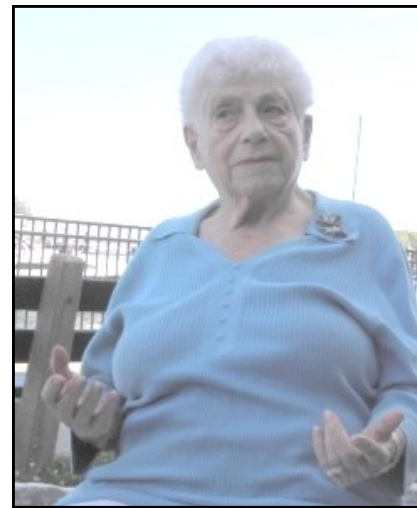
I told my mother the trouble I had with my algebra teacher, the one who started each class with a loud Hitler salute. He raises his arm and shouts in a loud voice, HEIL HITLER as he walks in the room.

“Heil Hitler,” he shouts, and everybody in the class stands up, raises their arm, and shouts Heil Hitler back. If it is not loud enough, we all repeat the routine.

Then there are some comments about how the Jews are destroying Germany, that Jews should be banned, and sometimes he also mentions the Gypsies.

Now I am telling her about the problem I had just yesterday with Herr Professor Buhl. I had not told my mother that I had gotten a “B” on that important test, and now I had to confess: On that last test that he gave us, after his Heil Hitler, he handed out the papers, and I had a B instead of an A. All of my answers were correct. I raised my hand and got up, shouted Heil Hitler, and asked him why I had a B instead of an A. His reply: “I gave you a B because you did not follow the formula I taught. You followed a formula I had not

That’s Hanna in a Photo taken by her grand-daughter Nora Isabel Bratman)



taught as yet. Besides, you are a nery Jew to challenge me. I will downgrade all of your papers.”

I said to my mother, “I didn’t tell you about it, but I will never go back to that school. They don’t want me there.” I started crying again.

My mother said, “If you really don’t want to go back, I won’t make you. You know, Hitler will not last much longer. There will be a change in government, and Hitler will not last. In the meantime, even if you don’t go to school, you will have to keep up with all your school-work and study French and English. I will arrange to get the assignments, and when Hitler is gone, you can go back” I never did go back, but my mother left me with these words that have guided me through the rest of my life: “You know, they can take everything away from you, except what’s in your head.”

Hannelore was only 19 when she escaped Germany on her own — other family members didn’t make it out in time. She met her future husband, Eugene Bratman, on the MS Saturnia on their way to America. When they arrived here, no one could pronounce her name, so she changed it to Hanna. She will be missed, but fortunately for us, she lives on through these stories she wrote.

COMMENT

Beth Finke’s books: “Safe and Sound” , “Long Time No See” and “Writing Out Loud” can be purchased at Sandmeyer’s Book Store.



Browsing Sandmeyers for the Holidays

By Tiffany Jackson

SANTA IN THE CITY

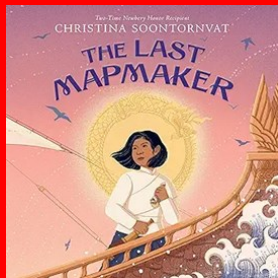
A little girl's belief in Santa is restored in this ode to the magic of Christmas. This is a holiday gift readers will treasure for years to come!



PERCY JACKSON AND THE OLYMPIANS

By Rick Riordan

The original heroes from The Lightning Thief are reunited for their biggest challenge yet: getting Percy to college when the gods are standing in his way. for college.



THE LAST MAPMAKER

By Christina Soontornvat

"Sura Siu captivates as she narrates this breathtaking seafaring adventure."

—Audiofile Magazine

"[A] tale full of both excitement and heart."

—Kirkus Reviews (starred review)

From Christina Soontornvat, the visionary and versatile author of two 2021 Newbery Honor Books, comes a high-seas adventure set in a Thai-inspired



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Editor's Letter: December, 2023

December 5, 2023 by [Brian Hieggelke](#)

Our first music issue since 2021 brings together contributors who span the history of Newcity and, in some cases, life before Newcity.

The Music 45 photo shoot took place at the Logan Center for the Arts at the University of Chicago, on the campus where Jan and I went to college decades back.

Many of my college memories are musical, starting with seeing the Ramones play in the gym at Ida Noyes Hall in the spring of my freshman year. Though I did not know him at the time, another student, Bart Lazar, booked that show. He is now a regular contributor to Newcity who wrote for Music 45. My musical experiences at the university continued after graduation, with highlights including seeing Warren Zevon at Mandel Hall; taking in the masterpiece of cinema and music, "Voices of Light/The Passion of Joan of Arc," at Rockefeller Chapel; and, more recently, celebrating the tenth-anniversary of Logan Center, where every r. young brought down the house.

Two writers who've been with Newcity since the 1980s, Dennis Polkow and David Witter, contributed to Music 45, along with Sara Stern. Sara is new to us as a writer but an old friend with whom we have gone to many, many concerts, along with her husband Ted C. Fishman, another Newcity writer since the eighties. Other longstanding contributors include our recent music editor of more than a decade, Robert Rodi, as well as Craig Bechtel and Aaron Hunt. Dave Hoesktra was turning out music pieces for the Sun-Times that made us envious for most of Newcity's lifetime, and we're thrilled that he's found a home with us for his chronicles of the off-center history of Chicago music and culture. And Sally Blood, whose cinematic images fill the pages of Music 45, has been photographing for our Leaders of Culture series for years now.

Music permeates much of this issue beyond Music 45, with those stories also having their connections to Newcity history. Anya Davidson chronicles the band "Mr.Phylzzz" in an eight-page comic; Anya was referred to us by Ivan Brunetti, who's contributed to Newcity since the nineties. Feature writer John Moss worked for a year on "The Bands Play On," which provided an ideal canvas for the singular drawings of Don Colley, who long-time Newcity contributor and friend Tony Fitzpatrick introduced to me years ago, but is having his Newcity debut just now.



View from the Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts at the University of Chicago Photo: Sandy Morris | Sally Blood Photo Cover Design: Dan Streeting

As we've been working on this issue, one of the biggest stories in music—aside from Taylor Swift's dominance of not only this industry but also film and, well, football—has been the release of an outstanding new, and likely final, Beatles song, "Now and Then." A band that broke up when I was a child, with two now-deceased members, found a way to collaborate over time and spectral dimensions, aided by the futuristic tool of AI, to make something fresh yet familiar.

By gathering so many contributors across our history to create this new and, we think, outstanding issue you're reading, I can relate.

Have a great and music-filled holiday season.

IN THIS ISSUE

Brian Hieggelke

All About Eves

A conversation with Cat Bohannon

The Bands Play On

In search of musical nirvana at the Old Town School

Music 45 2023

Who keeps Chicago in tune

NEWCITY newcity.com



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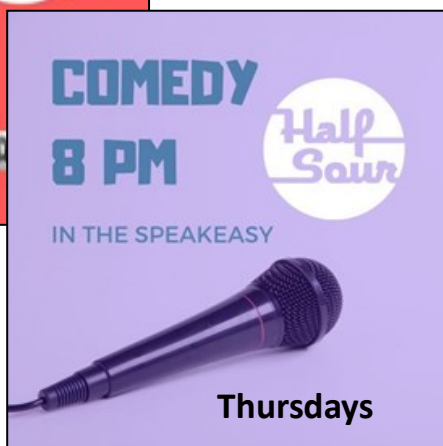
NEWCITY newcity.com

To protect the fountain at Fountain Park, a hexagon sided shed was built. Then four members of the Fountain Park Advisory Council tagged it with snowflakes. Janis Koeber Left, Colleen Wales, center, and Mary Ivory right. No one was apprehended. Photo by Susie Ohde, the 4th suspect.



Clark and Polk Streets

312.224.1772



Thursdays

Bingo with Betty

Last Wednesday of the month



700 S Wabash Ave



Thursday, December 21

Show: 9pm

\$15

[Buddy Guy's Legends](#)

Online ticket cut off time is 4:00PM day of show. Tickets are available at the door after 5:00PM

Free acoustic set: Matt Hendricks — 5:30-8:00PM

Headlining band — 9:00PM-Close

21+ After 8:00PM



Joe Moss

Ages 21 and up

Friday, December 22

Show: 8pm

\$25

[Buddy Guy's Legends](#)

Online ticket cut off time is 4:00PM day of show. Tickets are available at the door after 5:00PM

Free Acoustic Set: Jon McDonald 5:30-7:30PM

Opening Band: Michael Damani 8:00-9:00PM

Headlining Band: Joe Moss 9:30PM – Close

21+ After 8:00PM

SLN Annual Meeting & Dinner



Time & Location

Jan 15, 2024, 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Roots Pizza

Chicago, 744 S Dearborn St, Chicago, IL 60605, USA

About the event

The SLN Annual Meeting and Members dinner is being repeated! The meeting will start with a welcome, followed a complimentary dinner buffet (cash bar), a presentation on all accomplished in 2023 and then the election of officers and board members. The annual dinner is **free for all full SLN members (Current dues paying members)**

<https://www.southloopneighbors.org/events-1/sln-annual-meeting-dinner-1>



Chicago Newcomers Assistance Network

DONATE COATS, BOOTS, & COLD WEATHER GEAR

Please donate new or gently used/clean coats, boots, hats, gloves, scarves, sweaters, & sweatshirts to help migrant asylum seekers keep warm during their first winter.

www.chicagonewcomers.org

Drop off locations/time: Sundays, 1133 S Wabash, 11am to 1pm
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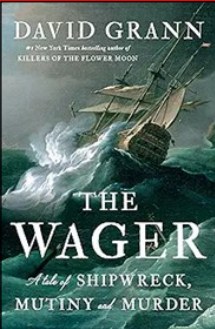
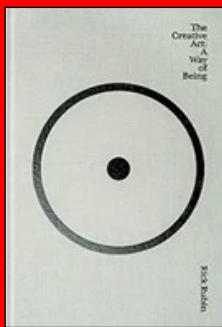
(773)592.0472

*Marlene.p.valero
@gmail.com*

**By Rick Rubin
The Creative Act**

The #1 New York Times bestseller.

"A gorgeous and inspiring work of art on creation, creativity, the work of the artist. It will gladden the hearts of writers and artists everywhere, and get them working again with a new sense of meaning and direction. A stunning accomplishment." —Anne Lamott

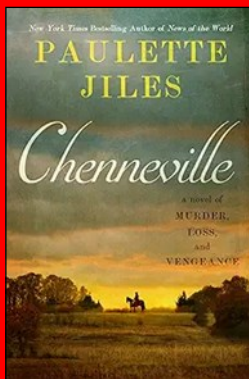
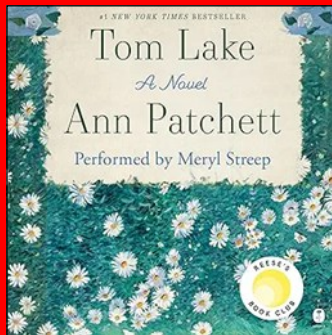


By David Grann, The WAGER

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • From the author of *Killers of the Flower Moon*, a page-turning story of shipwreck, survival, and savagery, culminating in a court martial that reveals a shocking truth. The powerful narrative reveals the deeper meaning of the events on *The Wager*, showing that it was not only the captain and crew who ended up on trial, but the very idea of empire.

by Ann Patchett, Tom Lake

In the spring of 2020, Lara's three daughters return to the family's orchard in Northern Michigan. While picking cherries, they beg their mother to tell them the story of Peter Duke, a famous actor with whom she shared both a stage and a romance years before at a theater company called Tom Lake.



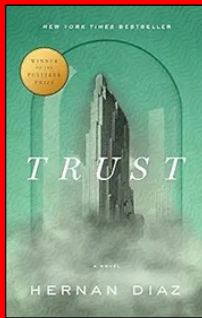
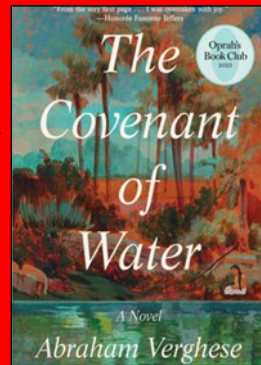
**by Paulette Jiles
Chenexville**

Consumed with grief, driven by vengeance, a man undertakes an unrelenting odyssey across the lawless post-Civil War frontier seeking redemption in this fearless novel from the award-winning and New York Times bestselling author of *News of the World*.

Covenant of Water

OPRAH'S BOOK CLUB PICK • INSTANT NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

From the *New York Times*-bestselling author of *Cutting for Stone* comes a stunning and magisterial epic of love, faith, and medicine, set in Kerala, South India, following three generations of a family seeking the answers to a strange secret



By Hernan Diaz, Trust

Even through the roar and effervescence of the 1920s, everyone in New York has heard of Benjamin and Helen Rask. He is a legendary Wall Street tycoon; she is the daughter of eccentric aristocrats. Together, they have risen to the very top of a world of seemingly endless wealth—all as a decade of excess and speculation draws to an end. But at what cost have they acquired their immense fortune?

Writing Out Loud
what a blind teacher learned from leading a memoir class for seniors
Beth Finke

A HISTORY LOVER'S GUIDE TO CHICAGO
GREG BORZO

OPINION

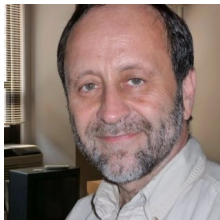
The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the editor or South Loop Referral Group.

Mondays with Mike:

by [mknezo2014](#)

40 Handmade, Home-made Years

December 18, 2023



Forty years ago this coming Sunday, December 24, Beth and I got in my junky Pontiac Ventura and headed north from Beth's house on California Street in Urbana, to Beth's mother Flo's house on Colfax in Elmhurst, Illinois—a suburb west of Chicago.

Phew, if I only known what was coming. To start, the temperature (not wind chill mind you) reached minus 20 Fahrenheit that night. (The wind chill reached well below -60 overnight.) The advertising slogan for my Pontiac when it was new was, "It's a prestige car. It's an economy car." Kind of like that Saturday Night Live skit that touted a fake product as "A desert topping...no, it's a floor wax!," my Pontiac was neither economical nor prestigious.

But it did start. What it didn't do was warm up. The temperature gauge wouldn't budge and, even set to its warmest setting, the heater fan blew cold air. Enter a big piece of cardboard and a bungee cord, and I blocked the radiator from the cold air so the engine reached proper operating temperature, and Beth and I remained reasonably comfortable.

The wind was howling and visibility was bad but we motored on. When I stopped for gas it was like an arctic landscape and it felt like an act of survival to just get out, get the pump started, and fill the tank. I imagined being found next to the pump with icicles hanging off my beard, the way they find unlucky Mt. Everest climbers.

We made it that night. As did Beth's sisters and their families from points around the United States. It was my first full blown introduction to the full complement of the Finke family, which I came to call Finke Nation. I grew up with one sister, so Beth's mom's living room looked like Beijing, China that night. Beth and I slept under the dining room table. Snoozing kids were strewn across the living room carpet.

The next day I participated in my first homemade Christmas. Beth's family, being as prodigious as it was (and is), concluded that gift giving would bankrupt everyone and decided to do a drawing. Whoever's name you draw, you make a gift for. (This being Chicago, there have been known to be shenanigans around these drawings.)

Back then, the soft rule was that it couldn't cost more than \$5. But whatever, the main thing was you had to make it.

I don't remember much clearly about that day. I recall being drafted into being Santa. Other than that, children skittered everywhere and, well, it was all a little overwhelming.

Yesterday, I attended my 40th homemade Christmas. It was hosted by Beth's nephew and his wife Julie. Ben was maybe 13 back at my first one in 1983. He and Julie have four kids. And a lot of those skittering kids from Flo's living room have kids of their own.

This year's event was well-attended, and it included Zoomers from Florida and Minnesota and a hospital room in Kentucky (not to worry, patient is unbreakable). I mean, you can only drive through blizzards so many times in a lifetime, and Zoom worked fine.



There's always plenty to eat.

MOST RECENT EPISODES

DEC 13, 2023

Celebrating Norman Lear

Norman Lear the veteran writer and producer behind such hit TV shows as *All in the Family* and *The Jeffersons*, died last week at the age of 101. Back in 2015, [Anna Sale](#), host of the podcast *Death, Sex and Money* interviewed Lear at his luxury apartment in Manhattan. He told Anna he wanted to make sure his kids would never be "desperate for a dollar" — but what "desperate" meant has fluctuated along the way. "I guess now it's 60 billion," he deadpanned, adding, "That's a joke."

Lear's own childhood had a degree of desperation: When Lear was nine, his father, Herman, was sent to jail for selling fake bonds. Lear's mother scrambled to make ends meet. "My mother tried to warn him," he said. "But nobody ever told Herman anything." When his father returned from prison three years later, tensions remained high. "I used to sit at the kitchen table and I would score their arguments," he says of his parents. "I would give her points for this, him points for that, as a way of coping with it."

Click here



Donate Blood for Free Field Museum

Tickets

Abbott and the Field Museum are collaborating on a first of its kind blood drive. Residents who donate blood at one of several upcoming events will get an exclusive first look at the new museum exhibition "Bloodsuckers: Legends to Leeches" and 4 free tickets to the museum. To learn more and to sign up to participate [click here](#).



FIELD.
MUSEUM

Second Presbyterian Church hosts its annual Winter Coat Drive during the months of November through February.

Donations of gently used or new winter coats, hats, gloves and sweaters are accepted and distributed to our Lunch Bag Program and neighbors in need.



Winter
COAT
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November 1, 2023—February 29, 2024.

Donations are received Tuesdays -Fridays, 11am-1pm



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THE PALLBEARERS OF THANKSGIVING



Milo Savich

New Novel by Local Author

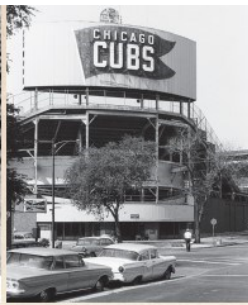
A group of unemployed steelworkers from Wisconsin Steel on the south side of Chicago organize a Thanksgiving Day demonstration in 1983 in order to call attention to their plight after the mill was suddenly shut down. Their gimmick is a coffin that the demonstrators will carry that represents the death of the American steelworker.

Savich's searing prose captures the rough life of the steelworkers with wry humor and compassion, especially their struggles, camaraderie, and feelings of betrayal. The characters are all well-etched, complex, and true to life, and their talk is funny, bleak, pained, and convincing ... these creations and lives linger in the mind after the last page....

— *BookLife*

\$14.95 92 pages ISBN: 978-1-7374709-3-9

Available on Amazon



The Forgotten 1970 CHICAGO CUBS

GO AND GLOW

William S. Bike



*Dear neighbors,
Please join me to celebrate my
40th birthday with a Jazz Concert
& Kids In Danger Fundraiser at the
Jazz Showcase on January 10th!*

MUSIC WILL BE CREATED BY CHICAGO ALL STARS

Miguel de la Cerna (piano)

Ernie Adams (drums)

Junius Paul (bass)

Ari Brown (saxophone)

Special Guest: Dee Alexander (vocals)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2024

7:30-8:00pm Guests arrive

8:00-9:00pm Music (1st set)

9:00pm Brief remarks from Kids In Danger & Jasmine Kwong

9:30pm Raffle drawing

10:00-11:00pm Music (2nd set)

CUPCAKES & RAFFLE

Sugar Bliss cupcakes

Raffle prizes from local businesses and organizations

VENUE

Jazz Showcase

806 S Plymouth Ct

BENEFIT

All proceeds benefit Kids In Danger, a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting children by fighting for children's product safety.

OTHER

Want to sponsor the event, volunteer, or donate a raffle prize? Please contact KID at 312-595-0649 or dev@kidsindanger.org.

- Can't make it? Please donate at Kids In Danger with memo "in honor of Jasmine Kwong" so we'll know - thank you!

For more event information, visit: <https://JasmineBirthdayBash.eventbrite.com>.

*With joy + gratitude,
Jasmine*

OPEN TO PUBLIC
Search on Eventbrite

Jasmine's 40th Birthday Bash | Jazz Concert Fundraiser
806 South Plymouth Court, Chicago, IL
Wednesday, January 10, 2024 · 7:30pm

KID
Fighting for Product Safety



The live theatrical adaptation of “Jim Henson’s Emmet Otter’s Jug-Band Christmas” is making its Chicago debut this holiday season at the Studebaker Theater! Packed with puppets created by **Jim Henson’s Creature Shop**, *Emmet Otter’s Jug-Band Christmas* is a heartwarming celebration of the true spirit of the holidays.



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Free Winter Weekdays!

GET FREE TICKETS

Illinois residents enjoy free admission on Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays—November 27 through December 22.



Help make this holiday season special for a child, adult or family by shopping their wish list!

1. gift card
2. Pro BLOX card
3. SOCK underwear

1. Ear rings
2. Bed bath + Beyond fragrance
3. Walmart + Gift Card

1. Fortnite gift card
2. tattoo set
3. nail art kit with nail

With list (Please list three gifts each \$25 and under)

Sponsor a child, adult, or family at:
roonga.com/holidaywishes2023

Second anniversary of Newtown tragedy recognized in 'personal reflection'

By Dylan Stableford December 14, 2014 12:34 PM Yahoo News

Nicole Hockley, whose son, Dylan, was killed in the shootings, wrote an open letter to "the mom I used to be":

Two years ago, you were happy and whole. You had a plan for life — start a new business, get involved in the school PTA, teach your sons how to ride bicycles and play sports, spend as much time with your friends and parents as possible, watch your children mature, grow old with your husband. You were optimistic — a "glass half full" person who saw the silver lining in every cloud and often felt so much joy you thought you would burst. You always looked forward — never backwards, no regrets. You smiled and laughed a lot. You danced.

You aren't that person anymore.

Two years ago, on December 14, 2012, the world changed and you changed with it. A disturbed young man with access to high-powered firearms went to your sons' school and killed six educators and twenty first-graders. Your eldest son Jake survived, but was changed by the day he discovered some monsters are real. He describes it as the day "when hell came to my school." Your youngest son, Dylan, your beautiful baby boy who you thought of as pure love, with his captivating eyes, infectious giggle and warm deep cuddles, was killed. Shot multiple times, dying instantly in the arms of his special education assistant who also died while trying to protect him.

The tragedy changed every single aspect of your life, not only because of the obvious absence of your child, but because of the constant hole inside you that can never be filled. Your eldest son has been forced to grow up way too fast because of the unfathomable loss of his baby brother. The pain has altered the lines on your husband's face. The way you look at the world has changed. Your interactions with friends and family seem foreign. You've become much harder. No longer brimming with optimism, you are now someone far more realistic and still. And you look back so much more.

This is the **eighth year** in which the Dearborn Express has run this article in memory of the tragic loss at Sandy Hook.

<https://www.sandyhookpromise.org/>

You view life through the prism of "before" and "after." Jake's fifth grade photos came recently. They are still sitting on a table because you haven't put them in the frame that sits next to Dylan's last school photo. It's too hard for you — too soon. Jake is getting older. But Dylan is frozen in time forever. Even after two years, there's this denial that is still very present inside you. You have Dylan's baby teeth and a lock of his hair on your bedside cabinet, beside the urn holding his ashes. That's all you have of your little boy now.

It hurts. It just hurts. You suppress your feelings as much as you can because you fear if you really let it out, you would never recover. If you started truly crying, you would never be able to stop. It would destroy you.

Hockley called on parents to take action to protect children from gun violence.

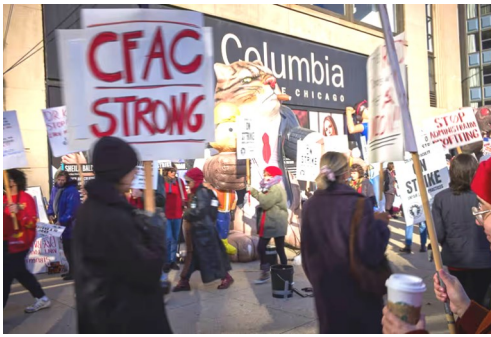
"For all the Moms and Dads reading this now — this doesn't have to be you," she wrote. "Because every gun-related death is a preventable death. These are not random acts. You can't ever say, 'This will never happen to me.' It can happen to anyone, at any point, at any place. You have to care enough and be insightful enough to do something before it's too late."

<http://news.yahoo.com/newtown-sandy-hook-shooting-2-years-later-173444284.html>

<https://www.sandyhookpromise.org/>



'If this was about money, we'd still be teaching': inside the longest adjunct strike in US history



Adjunct professors and Columbia College faculty union members walk the picket line

Academics at Columbia College

in Chicago are in a fierce dispute over cuts to courses and poor working conditions

[Michael Sainato @msainat1](#)

Sun 10 Dec 2023 08.00 EST Last modified on Mon 11 Dec 2023 11.55 EST

The longest strike of adjuncts in US labor history is still ongoing, with academics at Columbia College in [Chicago](#) remaining in a fierce dispute over cuts to college courses and a host of complaints over poor working conditions.

The fierce dispute began when Columbia College leadership suddenly announced plans to implement significant cuts to courses and course sections, and consolidating classes which have ballooned class sizes, [citing](#) a \$20m budget shortfall.

The strike has thrown a spotlight on how higher education in the US has [increasingly relied](#) on adjunct faculty, professors who often work with little to no job security and [low pay](#).

Diana Vallera, who has taught at the school for 15 years as an adjunct professor in photography and currently serves as president of the Columbia College faculty union, said the union immediately began pushing for more information while still trying to bargain over a new union contract for the school's adjunct faculty.

"You can't make unilateral changes to mandatory subjects to bargaining. The employer just doesn't care. They kept referring to management rights. They don't want to work with the union, but there is one, and they don't want to be accountable to anyone," she said.

Vallera said 53 course sections were cut from the fall 2023 semester and 317 for the spring 2024 semester. The union filed an unfair labor practice charge against Columbia College with the National Labor Relations Board, one of seven they have filed since August 2023, along with voting to start striking on 30 October as contract bargaining has seen little movement toward an agreement.

The strike is now the longest by adjuncts in US history, according to the union.

The union has criticized the cuts while executives at Columbia College continued to receive large bonuses to their salaries despite the school's financial deficit woes as reasons behind the cuts.

Dr Kwang Wu-Kim, president and CEO of Columbia College, [received a bonus](#) of \$300,000 in 2021, on top of a salary of over \$799,000, and over \$600,000 in additional compensation were given to 14 other executive positions, according to [2021 tax documents](#).

Kim said in a [video message](#) in November that "basically the college is financially sound", when downplaying concerns about the college's finances amid the cuts.

"The administrators who are in that room making decisions, all their salaries were increasing over the pandemic, it was disgusting," added Vallera. "The only people harmed by these eliminations to save money due to years of mismanagement and a [\\$50m building](#), the only people harmed are the most on the margins. They have repeatedly said they can't stand working with unions. This is union animus heightened. We're in bargaining and they still felt they could do whatever they want."

Since August 2023, the union has [filed](#) seven unfair labor practice charges against Columbia College with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), all of which are still awaiting adjudication.

The allegations against the college include refusal to furnish information required for bargaining, making unilateral changes to issues subject to collective bargaining, threatening to or transferring work out of the bargaining unit, soliciting workers to resign from the union and utilizing intellectual property of striking faculty.

"If we took on the changes, two-thirds of our membership would be gone, because they wouldn't have classes any more if we accepted what they originally offered us," said Tim McCain, an adjunct theatre professor and working professional at Columbia College, who saw one of his theater classes increase from 20 to 85 students.

He said because of significant increases to the size of his classes, he had had to adapt the way he teaches because there are too many students to have a more personalized class with each student.

"If this was about money, we'd still be teaching. They would just be negotiating a contract. But this is so much more," added McCain.

The strike has received [support](#) from several local elected officials and students who have refused to cross picket lines and even engaged in walkouts of their own as Columbia College has sought to have adjunct faculty courses filled in by other adjuncts crossing the picket line or by full-time faculty members.

Many students have criticized Columbia College's decision to cut courses and the impact it's having on their education.

"It's always the people they swear to protect that end up getting the brunt of it. It's an expensive college. A lot of people are struggling to afford to be here," said Sarah Khairy Nevárez, a sophomore at Columbia College who said the cuts had impaired students' abilities to fulfill their graduation requirements on time.

https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2023/dec/10/part-time-faculty-columbia-college-longest-strike?utm_source=pocket-newtab-en-us

Chicago Public Schools Leaders Want To Move Away From School Choice

The move puts in motion Mayor Brandon Johnson's campaign promise to reinvigorate Chicago Public Schools' neighborhood schools.

by [Reema Amin, Chalkbeat Chicago](#) and [Becky Vevea, Chalkbeat Chicago](#) December 13, 2023



The Chicago school board is voting on a resolution this week to “transition away from privatization and admissions/enrollment policies and approaches that further stratification and inequity in CPS and drive student enrollment away from neighborhood schools.” Credit: Jamie Kelter Davis for Chalkbeat

This story was originally published by Chalkbeat. Sign up for their newsletters at ckbe.at/newsletters

CHICAGO — Chicago school leaders want to move away from the district's system of school choice — in which families apply to a myriad of charter, magnet, test-in, or other district-run programs — according to a resolution the Board of Education will vote on this week. The move puts in motion Mayor Brandon Johnson's campaign promise to reinvigorate Chicago Public Schools' neighborhood schools. On the campaign trail, Johnson [likened the city's school choice system](#) to a “Hunger Games scenario” that forces competition for resources and ultimately harms schools, particularly those where students are zoned based on their address. District leaders' goals include ensuring “fully-resourced neighborhood schools, prioritizing schools and communities most harmed by structural racism, past inequitable policies and disinvestment,” the resolution, which was released Tuesday, said.

The board wants to pursue that policy goal — and several others — as part of the district's five-year strategic plan, which will be finalized this summer. In an interview with reporters on Tuesday, CPS CEO Pedro Martinez, Board President Jianan Shi, and Board Vice President Elizabeth Todd-Breland declined to specify changes or say how far they want to move away from the choice system. That's because they want to collect community feedback on how far the district should go, which would be outlined in a final five-year strategic plan this summer, they said.

The board is expected to vote Thursday on the resolution, which doesn't create or get rid of any policies;

rather, it formalizes and publicizes the district's goals. The district wants to “transition away from privatization and admissions/enrollment policies and approaches that further stratification and inequity in CPS and drive student enrollment away from neighborhood schools,” the resolution says.

This marks the first time the board has formally stated it wants to move away from selective admissions and enrollment policies. It says the school choice system, as it exists today, “reinforces, rather than disrupts, cycles of inequity” and must be replaced with “anti-racist processes and initiatives that eliminate all forms of racial oppression.”

Some selective enrollment and magnet schools [lack the diversity of the city](#), enrolling larger shares of white and Asian American students, while others remain largely segregated by race and class.

Martinez said it is painful to hear of students traveling far distances to attend school, or when parents ask if they should get their 4-year-old child tested for gifted programs. He said he can “scream as loud as I can” about all that he believes neighborhood schools can offer to families versus highly sought-after magnet or selective enrollment schools — but “it's not going to be enough.”

“We see this as an opportunity to, again, build trust, because I want to keep calling that out — that is a huge challenge for us,” Martinez said.

Any number of big changes could be on the horizon, Todd-Breland said.

“There likely will be policies that need to be revised and changed, so the admissions and enrollment policy is on the table as something that through this process of engagement, likely there will be some changes to it,” Todd-Breland said.

Todd-Breland and Shi said they've heard many pleas from the community to overhaul the choice system. The board's goal to move away from school choice is framed in the resolution as a response to the district's ongoing challenges, such as budget deficits and academic disparities between students citywide and Black and Hispanic students, students with disabilities, those who are homeless, and children learning English as a new language. District leaders imagine prioritizing neighborhood schools to receive more resources and programming. Martinez said universal preschool is one example of an initiative that can draw families into a school.

The system of school choice in Chicago grew over many decades.

[Data shows](#) around 56% of elementary school students attended their zoned neighborhood school last school year and 23% of high school students did. Twenty years ago, during the 2002-03 school year, 74% of students attended their zoned elementary school and 46% of high schoolers did.



<https://blockclubchicago.org/author/reema-amin-chalkbeat-chicago/>

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

In Brief . . .

The Bears *might* be looking at the Soldier Field south parking lot as a site for a new stadium. The rumor was reported in early December, and the Bears and city have declined to comment. That land, however, is subject to the Public Trust Doctrine, meaning a private organization such as the Bears could not buy it or have a long-term lease on it. Friends of the Parks, the organization that sued a decade ago to prevent transfer of the same property to the Lucas Museum, was quick to note the problem with that site.

A demolition permit has been issued for 1130 S. Wabash, the loft building just to the north of Eleven City Diner. Preservationists have raised alarms, but the property is not even listed in the city's 30-year-old Chicago Historic Resources Survey (listing alone can delay some demolitions). The building and adjacent parking lot are thought to be owned by the same group that developed the Homewood Suites and Hilton Garden Inn across the street.

Foundation permits have been issued for construction at 424 S. Wabash, a a 25-story mixed-use tower being developed by LMC at the corner of Van Buren. The tower will have 344 apartments.

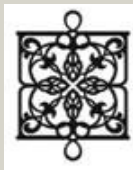
CMK Companies can begin construction on a 12-story apartment building at 1730 S. Wabash that will contain 110 apartments, across 18th St. from Tea Pot Bakery. Because the project needed no zoning change, renderings have not been released.

Courtesy of South Loop Neighbors Newsletter.

<https://www.southloopneighbors.org/>



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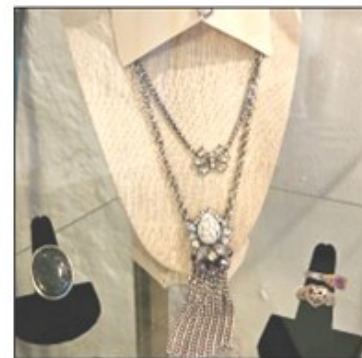
Barbara's Basement

Closing January 13th, 2024 for the Season 10 am - 1pm

Regular Hours: Tuesdays and Saturdays, 10 am - 1 pm

Sundays: As announced in advance

Come Shop With Us!



2nd Presbyterian Church, 1936 S Michigan Ave



The Robinson Report

4th Ward Service Office
Phone: 312-744-2690
Email: ward04@cityofchicago.org
Monday - Friday 9am-5pm

Dear Neighbor,

I'm thrilled to share the exciting news that in 2024, I will be establishing resident advisory councils to enhance community engagement, organize community driven events, and guide the initiatives of my office. Applications are currently open for the following councils:

- Youth Advisory Council
- Senior Advisory Council
- LGBTQ+ Advisory Council
- Economic Development & Business Advocacy Advisory Council
- Community Safety Advisory Council

I am actively seeking a diverse group of passionate residents from the 4th Ward to fill each council. If you have a keen interest in any of the council topics and can commit 5-10 hours per month to council activities, I wholeheartedly encourage you to apply. To submit your application [click here](#). Applications will be accepted until **Friday, January 13**.

Seeking Artist Proposals for Night Out in the Parks
DCASE is seeking applications to provide paid artistic programming for Night Out in the Parks program, which activates parks in all 77 of Chicago's community areas with the arts. Applications will be accepted until midnight on Sunday, December 10th. To learn more about to have your organization apply [click here](#).

Exciting Chicago Public Library Paid Internships
The Chicago Public Library will be hiring almost 70 paid interns this fall and spring. Opportunities include paid learning opportunities in experimental game design, cosplay, social media content creation, and running local book clubs in your neighborhood. To learn more and to apply [click here](#).

CALLING ALL CHICAGO ARTISTS!



NIGHT OUT in the PARKS

ACCEPTING PROPOSALS FOR SUMMER 2024
FROM NOVEMBER 1-DECEMBER 10

APPLY NOW >

New informational Bulletin Board installed at Fountain Park, Printers Row.

The Fountain Park Advisory Council requested the Bulletin Board and the covering of the newly refurbished fountain for winter. And the Park District Delivered.



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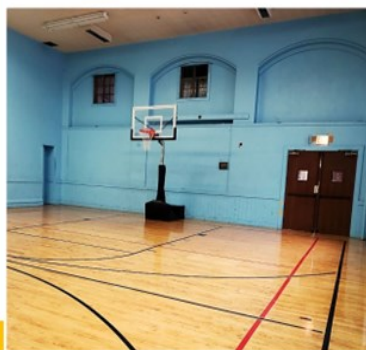
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We have Rental Spaces Available!

We have a variety of spaces within our church buildings, including the Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, a Gymnasium, and several meeting rooms, that may be rented for your special event or on a reoccurring basis!

Suspect killed in wreck after crime spree involving sexual assault, robbing 5 people at knife-point

BY MARY NORKOL AND VIOLET MILLER - Staff Reporters Contributing: Rosemary Sobol

A one-man crime spree that began as a sexual assault in the common area of a South Loop apartment building continued with several armed robberies, kidnappings and a stabbing, all before ending with the suspect dying in a car crash in Bridgeport early Friday on the South Side.

The suspect, who has not been identified, is a man in his 20s who was ejected from a vehicle when it crashed and flipped over shortly after 3 a.m. in the 3000 block of South Pitney Court, according to Chicago Fire Department spokesman Larry Merritt.

Two women he held captive in the car were injured in the crash and taken to Stroger Hospital, said Merritt. Their injuries were not considered life-threatening.

A resident of the building, who knew one of the victims, said people had packages stolen from the lobby, but in her 17 years living there had never heard anything like it.

"It's shocking, but not because of the state of our city," she told reporters outside the building Friday. She said she fears for her teenage children who live with her and has questions about what happened.

"I am so shocked because these are my people," she said. "I'm sickened. I wanna know, living here with kids, how did he get in? ... Everyone wants to know."

The spree began about 2:45 a.m. when the suspect entered the common area of an apartment building at 1516 S. Wabash Ave., where he approached a 48-year-old woman, pulled a knife on her and sexually assaulted her, Chicago police said.

He then confronted two 27-year-old women and forced all three women into one of the building's apartments, where he held them at knifepoint and robbed them, police said.

At that point, a 27-year-old man entered the apartment, and the suspect also held him at knifepoint and robbed him.

The 48-year-old woman was able to escape and was taken by ambulance to Rush University Medical Center, where she was in fair condition, according to Merritt and police.

The suspect then forced the three 27-year-olds into one of their cars, police said. They drove to a restaurant in the 700 block of West 31st Street in Bridgeport, and the suspect forced the man out of the car and into a Subway restaurant at 753 W. 31st St., where he cut and robbed a 36-year-old worker, taking cash from the register, according to police.

The man stayed at the restaurant while the suspect got back in the car and drove away with the women still in the car.

After plowing into a police car, he kept driving, then crashed in the 3000 block of South Pitney Court a few minutes later.

CLICK on link for more

https://paper.suntimes.com/infinity/article_popover_share.aspx?guid=1e9ea3c3-529e-48d5-beec-1b5aca3cde00&share=true



The South Loop apartment building where a man in his 20s started a crime spree that ended with his death in a car crash. VIOLET MILLER/SUN-TIMES



Did you know the South Loop Neighborhood Watch - Police Beat 123 has a facebook page?

We do!...and we encourage you to use it!

The South Loop Neighborhood Watch – Police Beat 123 Facebook Page is a crime communication tool intended to enable the rapid sharing of crime alerts and crime prevention news specifically for Police Beat 123. This area is the section of the South Loop that is bordered by Ida B. Wells on the north, Roosevelt Road on the South, the Chicago River on the west and Michigan Avenue on the east.

Link to Facebook group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1475398529519963/>

Please stay engaged! The safety and security of our neighborhood is everyone's business!

THE DEARBORN EXPRESS

This publication is sponsored by the South Loop Referral Group, a professional and business networking group. It is our mission to provide the Printers Row area with current news and to promote local businesses and organizations. This publication will be distributed through email to individuals who wish to receive it. If you have any questions or would like to contribute information, please email us: thedearbornexpress@gmail.com

CHICAGO
SUN-TIMES

<http://chicago.suntimes.com>

Next CAPS Meeting 2024

To Be Announced
Beat 123

caps.001district@chicagopolice.org



Police Blotter



<http://home.chicagopolice.org/>

11/26/2023 2am 1300 S Wabash
AUTO THEFT, Street, Beat 131

12/3/2023 9:30pm 1300 S State
AUTO THEFT, Street, Beat 131

11/25/2023 2pm 10 E 13th
ATTEMPT AUTO THEFT, Parking lot, Beat 131

11/29/2023 4pm 1200 S Indiana
AUTO THEFT, Parking Garage Beat 132

11/30/2023 10pm 1200 S Wabash
AUTO THEFT, Non Res. Parking lot, Beat 131

11/23/2023 2pm 1100 S Wabash
AUTO THEFT, Street, Beat 123

12/1/2023 9:30am 10 E 11th
AUTO THEFT, Street, Beat 123

11/30/2023 10:30am 901 S Plymouth Ct
AUTO THEFT, Res. Garage, Beat 123

11/25/2023 10am 800 S State
AUTO THEFT Parking garage, Beat 123

11/25/2023 10am 800 S State
AUTO THEFT Parking garage, Beat 123

12/4/2023, 5pm 0 E 8th
AUTO THEFT Non Res. Parking Garage B.123

11/30/2023 7am 700 S Wabash
AUTO THEFT, Non Res Parking lot, Beat 123

11/25/2023 11pm 700 S State
AUTO THEFT Street, Beat 123

12/2/2023 10am 600 S Dearborn
AUTO THEFT Non-Res Parking lot Beat 123

12/4/2023 7:45pm 500 S Dearborn
AUTO THEFT Street, Beat 123

11/24/2023 6pm 700 S Financial Pl
ATTEMPT. AUTO THEFT, Street, Beat 123

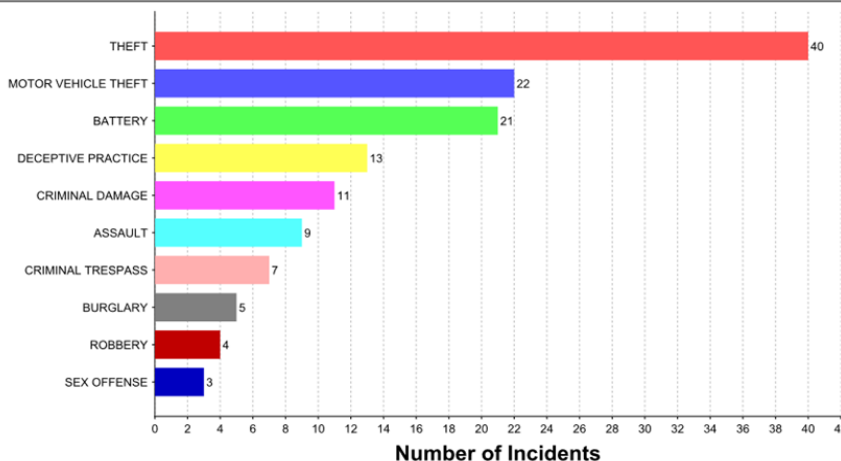
11/25/2025 6:30pm 600 S LaSalle
ATTEMPT AUTO THEFT, Non Res Parking lot, Beat 123

11/26/2023 2:30pm 100 W Harrison
AUTO THEFT, Non Res Parking lot, Beat 123

11/25/2025 11pm 500 S Financial Pl
ATTEMPT AUTO THEFT on Street, Beat 123

Report Date: 06-Dec-2023
Report Time: 15:27:55
Produced By: Information Services
Division
Run By: PC08X11

Top Ten Crimes From 01-Nov-2023 To 30-Nov-2023 On Beat 0123



Violent Crime

11/27/2023 5:10pm 1500 S State
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT, Knife, Apartment, Beat 131

12/2/2023 3pm 1500 S Michigan
AGGRAVATED BATTERY, Apartment, Beat 132

11/25/2023 6:05pm State & E 13th
STRONG ARM ROBBERY, No weapon, Sidewalk
Beat 131

12/1/2023 12 midnight 40 E 9th
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT, Knife, front of building,
Beat 123

12/2/2023 12:40pm 800 S Michigan
STRONG ARM ROBBERY, No weapon, parking garage,
Beat 123

12/2/2023 12:25pm 800 S Wabash Av
ATTEMPT. ROBBERY parking garage, Beat 123

12/1/2023 11:55am 800 S State St
ARMED ROBBERY, Handgun, small retail store,
Beat 123

11/26/2023 3:10pm 500 S State
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT, Knife, restaurant, Beat 123

11/30/2023 7:50pm 600 S Dearborn
AGGRAVATED BATTERY, small retail store, Beat 123

12/1/2023 12:59pm 1100 S Clark
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT, Knife, Target, Beat 123

Real Estate Transactions

\$680,000
1421 S WABASH AVE 4W
11/14/23

\$282,500
740 S FEDERAL ST 402
11/9/23

\$860,000
1201 S PRAIRIE AVE 903
11/9/23

\$595,000
51 E 15TH ST A2
11/7/23

\$290,000
1115 S PLYMOUTH CT 502
11/6/23

\$505,000
1530 S STATE ST 14S &138
11/6/23

\$187,500
40 E 9TH ST 414
11/1/23

\$697,500
1111 S WABASH 3006
10/31/23

\$286,000
1322 S PRAIRIE AVE 603
10/26/23

\$1,250,000
910 S MICHIGAN AVE 1904
10/24/23

\$340,000
1530 S STATE ST 428
10/19/23

\$152,000
633 S PLYMOUTH CT 809
10/19/23

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FOR RENT

600 S. Dearborn St #705 - 1br/1ba - \$1800/mo
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Available January 15th, 2024

732 S. Financial Pl. #306 - 1br/1ba timber loft - \$2100/mo

Beautifully updated timber loft in former printing factory. Bright southwest corner unit is flooded with tons of natural light. Great industrial loft with all the comforts of a luxury condo. Parking add \$350/mo extra
Available December 1st, 2023

701 S. Wells St #3201 - 2br/2ba luxury condominium - \$3200/mo

Enjoy gorgeous lake and city skyline views from this spacious 1200 sq ft northeast corner city home. Rent includes everything except electricity in this full amenity building.
Indoor parking add \$200/mo
Available December 1st, 2023

FOR SALE

600 S. Dearborn St #814

Fully upgraded 1br/1ba offered at \$265K
(Rented at \$2250/mo through spring 2024).

780 S. Federal St. #506

Clean, bright 1br/1ba in the Printers Square Condominiums.
Offered at \$165K

Tom Feddor - 312-203-3841

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Realty**

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312.203.3841**



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\$224,000

Anne Rosen
Keller Williams Infinity
312.545.7148



1101 S State St #1505
1 bed, 1 bath, 900 sq ft
\$225,000

Lindsey Richardson
Dream Town Real Estate
312.890.8777



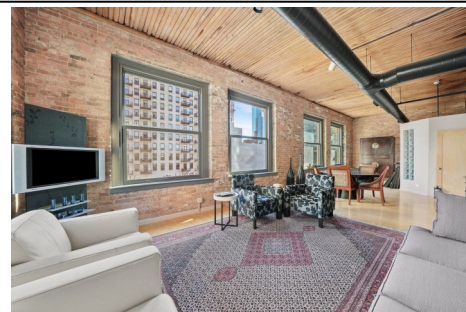
520 S State St #605
1 bed, 1 bath, 1055 sq ft
\$290,000

Vincent Roofe
Exit Strategy Realty
773.396.1120



900 S Wabash Ave #606
1 bed, 2 bath, 1100 sq ft
\$249,000

Robert Craig
eXp Realty, LLC
773.474.1410



100 E 14th St #3103
1 bed, 1 bath
\$400,000

Danielle Dowell
Berkshire Hathaway
HomeServices Chicago
312.391.5655



1530 S State St, #616
2 bed, 2 bath, 1750 sq ft
\$495,000

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